

IN THE CLAIMS

The following list of claims replaces all previous versions:

1. (Currently Amended) Method of producing polyesters having a desired I.V. value, the method comprising:

a) a crystallisation of crystallizing a polyester material in two stages, wherein the crystallisation is carried out in the presence of a gas with a dew point of (less than or equal to) ≤ approximately -10 °C, in the two stages, the first stage being carried out at a lower temperature than the subsequent stage; and

b) wherein setting the dew point of the gas to a particular value to obtain is set in dependence of the a desired rise of I.V. value of the polyester of

(i) about 0 dl/g to about 0.02 dl/g and the dew point of the gas is set to about -10°C to about -20°C;

(ii) about 0.02 dl/g to about 0.04 dl/g and the dew point of the gas is set to about -15°C to about -25°C;

(iii) about 0.04 dl/g to about 0.06 dl/g and the dew point of the gas is set to about -20°C to about -40°C;

(iv) about 0.06 dl/g to about 0.08 dl/g and the dew point of the gas is set to about -30°C to about -55°C; or

(v) about 0.08 dl/g to about 0.1 dl/g and the dew point of the gas is set to about -45°C to about -75°C.

2. (Original) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the dew point lies in the range from approximately -10 °C to approximately -85 °C.

3. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the gas comprises air, nitrogen or a mixture of them.

4. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 3, wherein the gas comprises nitrogen.

5. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the intrinsic viscosity I.V. of the polyester material during the crystallisation rises by approximately 0 to approximately 0.11 dl/g.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the crystallisation is carried out at temperatures of approximately 150 °C to approximately 230 °C

8. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the temperature during the crystallisation is continuously increased by up to approximately 20 °C.

9. (Previously Presented) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the crystallisation is carried out for up to approximately 10 h.

10. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 1, wherein the crystallisation is carried out in at least more than two stages.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 10 1, wherein the 1st stage of the crystallisation is carried out at a temperature of approximately 150 °C to approximately 210 °C and the 2nd stage of the crystallisation is carried out at a temperature of approximately 180 °C to approximately 230 °C.

13. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 10 1, wherein the 1st stage of the crystallisation is carried out for up to approximately 2 h and the 2nd stage for up to approximately 8 h.

14. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 10 1, wherein the 1st stage of the crystallisation is carried out using a gas flow under turbulence.

15. (Original) Method according to Claim 14, wherein the 1st stage of the crystallisation is carried out in a fluidised bed reactor.

16. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 40 1, wherein in the 2nd stage of the crystallisation the polyester material flows (i) under mechanical disturbance and the gas in counterflow, (ii) under mechanical disturbance and the gas in uniflow and (iii) without mechanical disturbance and the gas in uniflow.

17. (Original) Method according to Claim 16, wherein the 2nd stage of the crystallisation is carried out in a shaft crystalliser.

18. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, for the production of a polyester formed body, comprising a crystallisation of a polyester material, wherein the crystallisation is carried out in the presence of a gas with a dew point of (less than or equal to) ≤ approximately -10 °C and wherein the dew point of the gas is set in dependence of the desired rise of I.V., and further comprising producing a polyester formed body from the polyester.

19. (Original) Method according to Claim 18, wherein the polyester formed body is selected from the group consisting of bottles, films, filaments, fibres and technical high strength threads.

20. (Currently Amended) Method according to Claim 18, wherein the polyester material is formed body is produced used without carrying out a solid state polycondensation in a following reaction stage for the production of the polyester formed bodies.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein setting the dew point of (less than or equal to) ≤ approximately -10 °C comprises mixing the gas with a moistened gas.

24. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein setting the dew point of (less than or equal to) ~~≤ approximately~~ -10 °C comprises dividing a moist gas from a stage in the production of polyesters into a first flow and a second flow, drying the first flow, and combining the first flow and the second flow.